

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~  
IMMEDIATE

FRP: .2. . . .  
STAFF

OUTGOING

OUTGOING  
MESSAGE

OUTGOING  
MESSAGE

OUTGOING  
MESSAGE

b3

b3

b3

b3

b3

b1, b3

~~SECRET~~

Approved for Release  
Date JUN 1999

118

PAGE 001  
TOT: 310451Z MAR 86

~~SECRET NOFORN NOCONTRACT~~

TO: ROUTINE MEA BRIEF.

(NOFORN IN SLANTS)

WNINTEL.

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA BRIEF  
1986.

FOR 31 MARCH

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS

CONTENTS

1. SOUTH YEMEN: RECONCILIATION DOUBTFUL
2. USSR-ALGERIA: BENDJEDID'S MOSCOW VISIT
3. LEBANON: NABIH BARRI'S PROSPECTS
4. SOUTH AFRICA: DEBT ACCORD
5. [REDACTED]
6. IN BRIEF

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 002  
TOT: 310451Z MAR 86

OUTGOING  
MESSAGE

1. SOUTH YEMEN: RECONCILIATION DOUBTFUL

//INFIGHTING IN ADEN APPEARS TO BE INCREASING, AND THE SOVIETS  
MAY BE TRYING TO BROKER A RECONCILIATION TO PREVENT ANOTHER  
POLITICAL EXPLOSION.//

//HARDLINERS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT APPEAR TO BE  
GAINING THE UPPER HAND IN ADEN, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT. ATTAS'S  
NONPARTICIPATION IN THE SANAA TALKS AND HIS FAILURE TO APPEAR IN  
PUBLIC SINCE MID-MARCH SUGGEST HE MAY BE LOSING WHAT INFLUENCE HE  
HAD IN THE GOVERNMENT. MOSCOW WANTS TO PREVENT THE SITUATION FROM  
DETERIORATING FURTHER BUT IS HAMPERED BY THE VARIOUS FACTIONS'  
UNWILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE AND THE BY LACK OF A STRONG LEADER IT  
CAN SUPPORT.//

//ADEN'S REPRESENTATIVES AT THE RECONCILIATION MEETING, IF IT  
TAKES PLACE, ARE UNLIKELY TO BE FORTHCOMING, MAKING A SUCCESSFUL  
MEETING UNLIKELY. THE SOUTH YEMENIS' LACK OF TRUST IN THEIR LEADERS  
WILL LIMIT RESPONSE TO THE AMNESTY.//

2. USSR-ALGERIA: BENDJEDID'S MOSCOW VISIT

//THE KREMLIN WENT OUT OF ITS WAY TO MAKE ALGERIAN PRESIDENT  
BENDJEDID'S THREE-DAY TRIP TO MOSCOW LAST WEEK A SUCCESS, AND BOTH  
SIDES PUBLICLY ACCENTED POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THEIR RELATIONS, BUT THE  
VISIT DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE REVERSED ALGERIA'S SLOW SHIFT TOWARD  
GENUINE NONALIGNMENT.//

//SOVIET GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV GAVE BENDJEDID MORE TIME

OUTGOING  
MESSAGE

OUTGOING  
MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~

0 4 6 5

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 003  
TOT: 310451Z MAR 86

OUTGOING  
MESSAGE

OUTGOING  
MESSAGE

OUTGOING  
MESSAGE

[REDACTED] b3  
THAN IS GIVEN TO MOST FOREIGN LEADERS DURING STATE VISITS. THE TWO MEN MET FIVE TIMES, ONCE PRIVATELY, AND TASS DESCRIBED THE DISCUSSIONS AS "WARM AND FRIENDLY." TWO NEW ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS-- ONE A LONG-TERM COOPERATION ACCORD--AND A PROTOCOL ON POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS WERE SIGNED. DEFENSE MINISTER SOKOLOV AND ALGERIAN DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF ABDERRAHIM TOOK PART IN THE TALKS. GORBACHEV ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT ALGERIA BUT DID NOT SPECIFY WHEN HE WOULD MAKE SUCH A TRIP.// [REDACTED] b3

//THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE APPEARS DESIGNED TO IGNORE DIFFERENCES AND GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF IMPROVING RELATIONS BY REITERATING A MUTUAL DESIRE TO "DEEPEN" LONG-TERM COOPERATION. THE FOREIGN POLICY SECTION WAS COMPREHENSIVE BUT WAS DIRECTLY CRITICAL OF THE US ONLY IN REFERENCE TO THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT AND THE RECENT CONFRONTATION WITH LIBYA.// [REDACTED] b3

//ALGERIA DID NOT ENDORSE GORBACHEV'S PROPOSAL, MADE DURING BENDJEDID'S VISIT, FOR THE REMOVAL OF BOTH SUPERPOWERS' NAVAL PRESENCE FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN BUT DID AGREE ON THE NEED FOR A MEDITERRANEAN NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE AND PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN SPACE. MOSCOW, FOR ITS PART, MOVED NO CLOSER TO ALGERIA'S POSITION ON WESTERN SAHARA, SUPPORTING ONLY STANDING UN RESOLUTIONS.// [REDACTED] b3

[REDACTED]//MOSCOW PROBABLY WAS EAGER TO MAKE THE TRIP A SUCCESS OUT OF CONCERN OVER ALGERIA'S INCREASING NEUTRALITY. BENDJEDID PROBABLY SAW THE TRIP AS BALANCING HIS US VISIT LAST YEAR. COVERAGE OF THE TALKS SUGGESTS THEY WERE CONSIDERABLY MORE UPBEAT THAN THOSE DURING BENDJEDID'S LAST VISIT TO MOSCOW IN 1981. GORBACHEV IS MORE LIKELY TO TRAVEL TO NORTH AFRICA THAN ANY OF HIS PREDECESSORS, BUT FOREIGN MINISTER SHEVARDNADZE WILL PROBABLY VISIT FIRST.// [REDACTED] b3

//THE REFERENCES IN THE COMMUNIQUE TO STRENGTHENING FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION AND THE PROTOCOL ON POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS SUGGEST MOSCOW MAY BE PUSHING FOR A FRIENDSHIP TREATY. ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNIQUE SHOWS BENDJEDID IS WILLING TO SIDE WITH MOSCOW ON ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST, HE IS RELUCTANT TO DO SO ON THOSE THAT WOULD COMPROMISE ALGERIA'S NONALIGNMENT. [REDACTED] b3

### 3. LEBANON: NABIH BARRI'S PROSPECTS

//MODERATE AMAL LEADER NABIH BARRI IS STEADILY LOSING POWER TO THE RADICAL SHIA HIZBALLAH.// [REDACTED] b3

//SEVERAL FACTORS HAVE UNDERCUT BARRI'S LEADERSHIP. RECENT HIZBALLAH ACTIONS, ESPECIALLY THE CLAIMED EXECUTION OF A FRENCH HOSTAGE AND THE SEIZURE OF TWO ISRAELI SOLDIERS, HAVE CONVINCED MANY

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 004  
TOT: 310451Z MAR 86

LEBANESE SHIAS THAT THE HIZBALLAH CAN EFFECTIVELY CONFRONT THE WEST.//

BARRI IS MINISTER FOR SOUTHERN LEBANON, BUT HS HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DELIVER MANY ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO IMPORTANT CONSTITUENCIES.//

//BARRI FACES AN IMPORTANT CHALLENGE IN NEXT MONTH'S AMAL INTERNAL ELECTIONS. HIS OPPONENT HASAN HASHIM, THE AMAL SECURITY CHIEF FOR WEST BEIRUT, HAS SUPPORTERS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AS WELL AS IN THE SECURITY APPARATUS.//

VOTING HAS BEGUN IN THE BEKAA VALLEY AND THAT WITH SYRIAN HELP BARRI APPEARS TO HAVE WON THE BACKING OF AMAL MEMBERS THERE.//

: //BARRI PROBABLY WILL DO WELL IN THE BEKAA, BUT THE SYRIANS CAN DO LITTLE FOR HIM IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. THE KEY AMAL LEADER IN THE SOUTH, DAUD DAUD, IS INCREASINGLY DISILLUSIONED WITH BARRI'S LEADERSHIP AND INCLINED TOWARD IRAN.//

//NEVERTHELESS, THE HIZBALLAH'S CLOSEST SYMPATHIZERS IN AMAL ARE NOT CHALLENGING BARRI IN THE ELECTIONS, SUGGESTING THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FROM WITHIN TO WEAKEN HIM. BARRI MAY POSTPONE THE COMPLETION OF THE ELECTIONS-AS HE DID LAST YEAR-IF HE FEELS SERIOUSLY THREATENED. EVEN IF HE RETAINS THE LEADERSHIP, THE HIZBALLAH'S INCREASING SWAY AMONG AMAL'S RANK AND FILE IS LIKELY TO UNDERCUT BARRI'S LEADERSHIP IN THE SOUTH.//

#### 4. SOUTH AFRICA: DEBT ACCORD

//PRETORIA'S FREEZE ON \$14 BILLION IN FOREIGN DEBTS IS TO BE REPLACED TUESDAY BY AN UNDERSTANDING IN WHICH CREDITORS WILL ROLL OVER 95 PERCENT OF CURRENTLY FROZEN LOANS THROUGH JUNE 1987. IN EXCHANGE, PRETORIA WILL ALLOW SOUTH AFRICAN DEBTORS TO REPAY THE OTHER 5 PERCENT. CREDITORS PLAN TO REVIEW THE SITUATION IN APRIL 1987.//

SOUTH AFRICA PROBABLY

~~SECRET~~

OUTGOING

MESSAGE

OUTGOING

MESSAGE

OUTGOING

MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 005  
TOT: 310451Z MAR 86

WILL HAVE A CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS OF SOME \$2 BILLION IN 1986, WHICH WILL GIVE THE NATION THE WHEREWITHAL TO MAKE ITS PAYMENTS, PROVIDED MOST CREDITORS CONTINUE TO RENEW LOANS NOT COVERED BY THE DEFERRAL. IF BLACK UNREST PERSISTS, AS IS LIKELY, CREDITORS NEXT YEAR MAY AGAIN RESORT TO A SHORT DEBT DEFERRAL IN LIEU OF A RESCHEDULING AGREEMENT TO KEEP THE APPEARANCE OF PUTTING PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA. AN INCREASE IN VIOLENCE WOULD SPEED SOUTH AFRICA'S ECONOMIC ISOLATION, CUTTING FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR DEBT REPAYMENT AND PERHAPS TRIGGERING NEW CRISES OF CREDITOR CONFIDENCE.//

OUTGOING MESSAGE

OUTGOING MESSAGE

OUTGOING MESSAGE

5.

## 6. IN BRIEFS

### AFRICA

-- //SOMALIA RESISTING UN, WESTERN PRESSURE TO MOVE ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES FROM BORDER AREA . . . FEARS SECURITY THREAT, OPPOSITION FROM LOCAL POPULATION . . . COMING RAINS WILL REDUCE FOOD, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, CAUSE EPIDEMIC AT PRESENT CAMP.//

~~SECRET~~

0 4 6 8

b (1) b (3)

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 006  
TOT: 310451Z MAR '86

OUTGOING MESSAGE

OUTGOING MESSAGE

OUTGOING MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~

0 4 6 9